



CITY NEWS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**** News Release****

Officers Saturate East Wichita To Keep Drunk Drivers Off The Road

What: DUI Saturation Patrol
When: Tuesday, October 31
Who: Wichita Police Department
Where: East Wichita

As an ongoing part of the Wichita Police Department's Traffic Safety Initiative, Officers will be patrolling east Wichita, including Kellogg and North and South Rock Road, between 9 p.m. on Tuesday, October 31, and 1 a.m. on Wednesday, November 1 in an effort to locate intoxicated drivers. "This project is designed to identify impaired drivers on our major thoroughfares in east Wichita and remove them from our roadways" said Sgt. James Krok, Patrol East Bureau.

Officers participating in this enforcement activity will be driving marked police cars with a DUI Task Force sign on the vehicle. Motorists who are suspected of driving under the influence will be pulled over and given a field sobriety test which may be followed by a Breath Alcohol Test. Those drivers found to be over the legal limit of .08 will be arrested.

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Wichita has recorded 29 traffic fatalities since the first of the year, with four of them being alcohol or drug related. For the same period in 2005, Wichita had 22 traffic fatalities, with seven of them being alcohol or drug related.

Recent figures released by the federal government show that more people died while driving drunk in 2005 despite record seat belt use, pushing traffic deaths nationwide to a 15-year high.

“We know that there will be a lot of people driving and many children walking on Halloween. We want everyone to have an enjoyable time, but be especially careful since so many young people will be out in the community,” said Sgt. Krok.

This DUI Saturation patrol is just one aspect of the four-prong approach that the Department is using in addressing traffic safety in the city of Wichita. Those four aspects of traffic safety include education, enforcement, environment and awareness.